

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harrisburg

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76 South First	Avenue			NOT FOR PUBLICATION	CT
city, town Coatesville	_	VICINITY OF		16th	
state Pennsylvania		CODE 42		county Chester	CODE
CLASSIFIC	ATION			 -	
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRESI	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
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CITY, TOWN	West Chester			state Pennsylvani	α
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Terracina was built in 1848 as a wedding present for Isabella (lukens) and Dr. Charles Huston. This two and one half story house has a sleeply pitched cross gable roof with four interior brick chimneys and finials. The exterior of the building consists or rough stone walls covered with a beige colored stucco. A two story flat roof wing is located on the south side of the rear elevation.

The Huston house shows many influences of the gothic revival style. Its intricately carved bargeboards add elegence to the eaves of the slate roof. A diamond pany lancet-shaped window is also located in the center of each gable.

The front facade (west) is three bays long with a center doorway. Windows on the first story are full length with louvered shutters. They were at one time four over twelve but have been replaced with one over one lights. The center door is paired each with two lights. A full length hipped roof porch shades the first story. The porch is supported by intrically molded cast iron pillars and large lacy brackets. The second story has three bays with the central casement window having diamond panes and sidelights. The flanking windows are one over one with louvered shutters.

The south elevation of five bays has a two story six bay window located in the fourth bay. A one story shed roof porch extends to the rear over a one story shed.

The north elevation has a one story hipped roof porch identical and attached to the porch on the front facade.

The interior plan of the first floor radiates from the wide entrance hall located in the center of the house. The entrance hall forms an "L" with a hallway where the divided stairs to the second floor are located. The parlor is located on the right of the wide hall and the library is on the left. To the rear right is the dining room. The left rear room is a combination kitchen, hallway and servants' stairway. A door from this room opens onto a small section housing the pantry and various work and utility areas.

A bay projection is located on the south side of the house. It extends up the side of the house ending just below the second floor level. Large windows are located in each wall of the projection. The first floor room is used as a surroom.

This room has an outside door as well as a door closing the room off from the rest of the house. The second floor room of the bay is located at the landing of the divided stairway. The second floor bay room was supposedly used as a classroom for the Huston children.

The second and third floors contain bedrooms. The second floor has five bedrooms of varying size. Rooms follow the same basic floor plan as the rooms on the first floor. The second floor of the back wing contain the servant's living quarters. The third floor houses additional bedrooms.

Besides the main house, there are several other buildings on the property. In the rear portion of the approximately 1.75 acres lot is a combination stable-shed and a tenant house. Both are constructed of clapboard. There is also an outhouse, cold cellar and a building which could have been a combination hot house and chicken coop. The grounds are well landscaped with fruit trees, nut trees, shade trees and various shrubs and plants.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1848	BÜILDER/ARCI	HITECT	·
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Abstract: Terricina was the home of an important industralist associated with the Lukens Steel and Company. Architecturally, Terricina is a house with excellently preserved gothic details.

The City of Coatesville is known as the "Home of Lukens Steel Company". Lukens Steel Company was founded shortly after the establishment of the community. It started in 1810 when two area men, Isaac Pennock and Jesse Kersey, acquired property and a saw mill on the western branch of the Brandywine Creek. Here they converted the saw mill into a small iron mill and called it the "Brandywine Iron Works and Nail Factory". Isaac Pennock's daughter, Rebecca, married Dr. Charles Lukens. Soon Dr. Lukens entered the business and eventually leased and operated the mill in Coatesville. Under Dr. Lukens direction, Lukens Mill, in 1818 achieved the distinction of being the first to roll boiler plates in America. In 1825, the firm also made plates for the first - hulled vessel built in America, The Codorus. When Dr. Lukens died suddenly in 1825, Rebecca was left with both the mill to run and four small children to care for. Rebecca Lukens, defying the custom of the day, decided to supervise the mill works herself. Under her guidance, the mill grew.

By the 1840's Rebecca Lukens had established herself as an Ironmaster. Her business was thriving. In 1848, Rebecca's second daughter, Isabella, married Dr. Charles Huston of Philadelphia. As a wedding present to the couple, Rebecca had a home built for them on ground next to her own home, continuing the heritage of iron masters living close to their mills. The new house was named "Terracina" which means little terrace. Dr. Huston abandoned his medical practice in Philadelphia and moved to Coatesville. Here he turned his attentions and energies to running the mill.

Dr. Huston, in partnership with other family members, spent the remainder of his life working for the family enterprise. He continually instituted new procedures and methods. He set standards for plate testing. Because of this Lukens was, and still is a forerunner in the iron and steel industry. In the 1880's, they began rolling steel and soon developed the technology and gained the distinction of being the producer of the largest steel plates in the world.

While technical changes were taking place in the mills, company organizational changes were also taking place. The business was incorporated as Lukens Iron and Steel Company in 1890. Many of the organizational meetings, the new company's first stock holders meeting and the first meeting of the board of directors were held at Terracina, Subsequently from time to time, it was not unusual for the Board of Directors meetings to be held in the library of the home.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

TERRICINA

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE

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The role Terracina played in company policy did not stop after the death of Dr. Huston in 1897. The house continued in family hands. It was leased to several cousins for a few years. In 1935 Stewart Huston (grandson of Dr. Charles Huston) acquired the house. Mr. Huston, professional metallurgist, served on the board of directors of Lukens and was Vice-President for many years. With his residence established at Terracina, close to the company's main office, the house continued its historical position in the life of company and community.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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Coatesville Historical Co	mmission				
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53 South First Avenue	•				
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hereby nominate this property for inclu	usion in the National I	Register and certi	fy that it has been evaluated according to the		
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TERRICINA

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

1

Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High Street, West Chester, Pa.

Clippings File: Coatesville: Lukens Steel Company

Clippings File: Coatesville: Huston Family

Vault Section: Huston

Huston, Isabella P. Autum Leaves Philadelphia: Sherman& Co., 1873.

Huston, Stewart. Rambles . . . by Dictation. West Chester, Pa. D. Edwards Biehn, 1937.

Futhy, Jr. Smith, and Cope, Gilbert. History of Chester County. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1886.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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